*170. [*The questioners (Shri Ranjit Singh and Shri Ram Jethmalani) were absent. For answer vide col.* 42-43 infra.]

Non-induction of Prithvi Missile

*171. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH:†

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Army is unprepared for induction of surface to surface prithvi missile as a "weapon system" which is scheduled to be undertaken in the beginning of 1993 as reported in the Indian Express dated the 12th June, 1992;

(b) whether it is a fact that major problems have threatened the optimal usage of Prithvi; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof and the problems arising due to the non-induction of Prithvi?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir. The Indian Army is prepared for induction of Prithvi Missile. All the preparations for induction have commenced including training phases.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Digvijay Singh.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Action Plan to improve Jute Industry

*162. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to introduce an action plan to improve the jute industry and also to reduce competition between jute bags and high density polythylene bags;

(b) if so, whether the use of jute products has been falling since the past few years; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Government have constituted a Committee to make recommendations for improving the condition of the jute industry. Government are also aware of the interests of the jute packaging sector and its *inter se* situation *vis-a-vis* the HDP bags for packaging.

(b) The figures of internal consumption of jute goods during the last few years are as follows:

Unit : 000/M.Tons

Period (April-March)	
1987-88	957.4
1988-89	1149.1
1989-90	1108.8
1990-91	1234.7
1991-92	1079.3

(c) Government have taken several measures to revitalise the jute industry, including, creation of Jute